

## DPAC Meeting Minutes February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 held via Zoom

**Meeting Commenced:** 7:02pm

**Meeting Facilitator:** Cheryl Blondin

**Attendees Present:** (See Bottom) [*fluctuated bw 19-23 at high point*]

Acknowledgment by the chair that the meeting takes place within the traditional, ancestral, unceded Sto:lo territory. There are four first nations band within the boundaries of the Mission School District: the Leq'a:mel, Matheqwi, Qwo:ltl'el and Sq'ewlets peoples.

### **Adoption of December minutes:**

Motion to accept January meeting minutes by Jacquelyn, Raegan seconds.

### **Adoption of Agenda:**

Motion to adopt February agenda (*updated to reflect correct months*) by Michelle, Cheryl seconds.

### **Presentation: Monica Thimer [peer support worker] from *Family Smart***

*Founded in 2000 as a non-profit. Path advocating for child and youth mental health plan for BC.*

*Exceptional care deserved for people with youth who have experienced mental health or substance abuse issues – remains central goal – provide safe space for people to talk free of judgement and blame. Will provide mentorship, be your advocate and point you to available resources/services.*

*Video: “Beginnings” Journey to Family Start: Issue of parent blaming surrounding case involving truancy; improved treatment afforded by Family Smart (focus on supporting child and parents rather than focusing on placing blame); similar instance in case involving bipolar diagnosis (blamed “refrigerator mothers” (cold and uncaring)) – significant source of self-doubt and stigma. Recognition of need to change language and improve services and their accessibility or lack thereof (previously were SIGNIFICANT delays in access to treatment). Marked birth of Institute for Families. About seeing each other as assets; about relationships; about working together.*

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*Support workers in 34 sites across BC and 2 in AB; also 3 youth care support workers.*

- *1<sup>st</sup> year of pandemic – supported over 10,000 families, young people and service providers. (full report available on website: [familysmart.ca](http://familysmart.ca))*

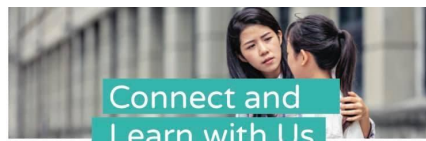
*Support workers can meet in person, over the phone or via video chat or email.*

*Monthly “In the Knows” held online – safe space to learn more about what their kids are experiencing and connect with other families so they know that they are not alone.*

*May 7<sup>th</sup> (National Child and Youth Mental Health Day) - part of health literacy program*

*Participation in events increasing during pandemic – nearly doubled in some communities and tapping into new communities as well.*

*2 upcoming February live events already full with 1,000 person capacity; recently added March (ADHD) and April (Screens and Mental Health) events.*



An online event for families and caregivers

#### ADHD - The Real Deal

Speaker: Dr. Don Duncan

Dr. Duncan will dispel the many myths surrounding ADHD by presenting up to date scientific facts about cause, prevalence, diagnosis and treatment. He will explain how and why the ADHD brain works the way it does.

FEB  
16

#### What to Say to Kids (and Teens) When Nothing Seems to Work

Speaker: Dr. Ashley Miller

Dr. Ashley Miller will share quick and effective strategies to help your child and you weather difficult moments in a way that strengthens resilience and relationships.

FEB  
23

(1 hour Presentation and 1 hour Q & A)

Cost: Free

Required Registration: [familysmart.ca/events](https://familysmart.ca/events)



*All Family Smart videos are available on website/YouTube channel (made possible thanks to funding)*

*“Help for the Hard Times” workshops – originated at Surrey Memorial Hospital – funding to add two more workshops in 2 other communities in BC (also available to families who have accessed emergency rooms) - focused on transition from hospital to home and the fear re: the wait for services upon returning home.*

*Contact: [Monica.Thimer@familysmart.ca](mailto:Monica.Thimer@familysmart.ca)*

### **Correspondence: Cheryl Blondin**

Foundry Virtual App Info Email (or youth 12-24 counselling services available on app)

Adaptive Swim Lessons at MLC

January Month End Enrollment Report

PAC Inquiry Emails

BCCPAC - PAC A-Z Presentation Feb 10<sup>th</sup> (*registration required*)

### **Superintendent's Report: Angus Wilson**

*Not a lot to report...*

*Last few weeks:*

*1. Boundary review more solidified (H-D and SF-AM)*

*2. 3pm Thursday prior to literacy and numeracy assessment, email from ministry said cancelled – is confusion re: where we go from here – hoping for answers next week. (Need clarification whether the assessments will be rescheduled and how will impact graduating students)*

*3. First new trades and training committee meeting last week (expanded version of earlier advisory committee) – 19-20 members. Began discussion re: future directions; conversations re: math and acclimatizing students to world of apprenticeship*

*4. Everything else ties into Omnicron (COVID)...*

*Fraser Health (FH) town hall with all Superintendents – looked at attendance – illness in kids and teachers crested about 2wks ago, in decline now. Highest level of just over 10% illness [a few weeks ago this was case at most schools in Mission; Last Friday, only 2 schools had 10% illness in Mission]*

- But other groups more impacted recently: i.e., Last week EAs were quite short (e.g., Dewdney had 5 EAs away at one time) and 6 principals and VPs away across district) – tight but rode the wave well.*
- FH data does indicate mini waves pending but big crest is over.*
- FH – two closures discussed last week (medical and functional). Never closed schools due to medical closure (result of absence/illness) – likely due to short form/speed of illness – 5 day vs 15 day cycle.*
- When considering absences, about ½ are typically away for illness; other ½ for other reasons (doctor/dentist appointment, family vacation etc) – moreover, not all illnesses are COVID illness (happening time and time again)*

*Conjecturing that current round of restrictions will end by Family Day (e.g., parents allowed to attend events etc.)*

### **Chair's Report: Cheryl Blondin**

*Held executive meeting...*

#### a. Executive Meeting Report

*Parent Education Summit – trying to be creative to combat participant fatigue.*

*Inclusion – looking to improve the technology procedures form so more inclusive for both staff and students (additional discussion re: this later in meeting)*

*Safety and Emergency Planning – looking into issues re: bus safety*

*Participation Grant – Cheryl working on it*

*Also chat re: physical education in school.*

*Lots of COTW meetings about boundary review.*

#### **Treasurer's Report: Jacquelyn Wickham**

*Gaming*

*\$603.61 (-\$84.04 - cheques cleared for society fee and zoom license)*

*Chequing*

*\$2412.20 (unchanged)*

#### **Old Business**

##### **a. Teacher Shortages/ Supervision Levels - Ongoing - discussion**

*Cheryl – hearing things are improving; only one functional closure (HPMS). Still meeting and chatting with Board and Angus and will meet again soon.*

*Angus – P/VP/district teachers etc. covering classes a lot; not doing own administrative work; also, while professional educator they are not the original teacher (not without its challenges and impacts in both the school(s) in question and the district office).*

- *As of today, posting two teacher on call contract positions for middle and secondary schools to try to improve staffing stability.*

##### **b. Apps and Technology Process and Procedures - information/action**

*Spoke more with folks in charge – there is an administrative procedure and a corporate policy; is list of approved apps. Cheryl was able to take look at form used to clear app for approved usage – also met with administrator about form – focused on privacy part of apps (where information collected and stored); questions re: inclusivity remain.*

*In executive meeting took look at form, policies etc. – policies well written but working on how to improve form to discuss issues from the student’s perspective and how impact students and not just how app is storing information in system.*

*Cheryl able to share form and policies with interested parents, DPAC reps, PACs etc. if requested.*

*[~Further questioning of class dojo app~]*

*Best to first approach principal with any concerns so they are able to do audit of app usage – then will work through chain up to district office. [District (Angus) and Cheryl will reach out to schools/PACs to ensure parents are aware of how to deal with concerns]*

*Operations are replacing all student laptops – say ½ replaced – remaining 500 will be replaced by Spring Break. [Angus: well-intentioned promise but could be delayed because a significant number of IT staff are working from home currently]*

*Note: iPads will not be replaced by district; not in the iPad business; if PAC decide to purchase do keep in mind the purchase needs to be approved/vetted by district IT because it adds to their load.*

## **New Business**

### **a. Middle School Model - discussion**

*Anyone with kids in MS, our MSs differ from many districts – parents wondering why and recommending model used in Abbotsford (pod model with fewer teachers (maybe 4 instead of 8 for example – “halfway house” between ES and SS) and pod of students that “travel” together)*

*Board of Education many years ago looked at plan developing MSs in the district – interest in supporting secondary school as population was declining in Mission a decade ago or so ago (all senior secondary in one space so more elective options (difficult to do with smaller populations) etc.) – of course not case now but was the case then; 7-9 model chosen by Board of Education.*

*3 typical MS models: [Getting students at particular, special age – no longer little kids in ES, not proto adults you see in secondary school]*

- o Grades 6-8 (most popular in BC at this time) – advantage of orienting MS to wholistic elementary model; neg impact on elementary school (6s good for ES leadership; student driven initiatives etc.)*
- o Grades 7-8 (more common in US) – typically not good numbers so not as many electives (school populations are too small to support)*
- o Grades 7-9 (in decline) – adv truly turbulent era – advs incl many electives, sci classes etc.; possibly of becoming JH model in favour of specialized class structure vs. wholistic approach. Could be argued is worst of both worlds.*

*Looked at Pod model in Mission shortly after Angus arrived – in our collective agreement MSs default to elementary school rules – size limited to 30 kids in upper ES; broken down more in secondary schools (30 students unless English/social studies 28 students, another group of classes with 26 and another group (incl science and shop which is 24). Imagine pod of 30 kids; can't accommodate kids in all pods due to varied class sizes. Solution? – school district (management and Mission Teachers Union) compromised on 27 kids in all pods. Looked like they found a solution. BCPC (employers association) said no – example of bargaining out of contract despite mutual agreement on both sides. Creates too many pods that are too small; but also, can't cram 30 kids into a single wood working class (too difficult to monitor/manage). Structural issue. Also, facilities/space issue in Mission.*

- *At one point tried pilot project in Mission called a “mini school” – 60 students that had 3 classrooms in gr. 8 year.*

*All solutions will require provincial support because they are expensive. Discussion ongoing...*

### **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Michelle, Raegan seconds

Meeting adjourned at 8:43

Next meeting is, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm via Zoom

### **Attendees:**

District: Angus Wilson; Board: Julia Renkema, Randy Cairns, Shelley Carter, Rick McKamey; MTU: Shannon Bowsfield; Albert McMahan: Ashley MacLean, Brandi Isaak, Jessica Scarrow, David Kun, Erin Albert; Christine Morrison: Raegan Heidt, Angela Walkey; ESR: Sheneal Anthony; Hillside: Angela Manno; HPMS: Cheryl Blondin, Alicia Hurd; Windebank: Pascale-Sara Frenette, Pavla; MEC – Christina Thiele; West Heights: Jacquelyn Wickham, ; Cherry Hill: Bunny Cocar; Dewdney:; MSS: Sheneal Anthony; Stave Falls: Michelle Clayton; School Unknown/Guests:.